regard to book the escaped JKLF activists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what further steps have been taken to tighten the security measures in J&K in the wake of the escape of the terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A large scale hunt and combing operations have been launched by the security forces to trace out and nab the escapees alongwith other terrorists and subversives.

(d) Security arrangements in the jails have been tightened.

Scecurity measures in Jammu and Kashmir have also been tightened. These include larger induction of Central Police Forces; revamping of administration; better coordination between the State Police/Central Police and the Army; toning up of intelligence wing; intensive raids and combing operations on selective basis; and strengthening of vigil on the border.

Situation in the Kashmir Valley

135. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present situation in the Kashmir Valley; and

(b) the number of incidents of kidnappings and killings by terrorists in Kashmir during the current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) The situation is extremely difficult; the State Government is engaged in relentless efforts to curb terrorism and control subversives in order to restore normalcy in the Valley.

(b) According to the available information, 20 persons were kidnapped and 36 persons were killed by the terrorists in the current year (upto 28-4-90).

Withdrawal of IPKF

136. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the withdrawal of IPKF personnel from Sri Lanka has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the relations between India and Sri Lanka and to solve the Tamil problem in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The process of de-induction of the IPKF from Sri Lanka was completed on 24-3-1990.

(c) Government are committed to restoring Indo-Sri Lanka relations to traditional levels of cordiality. Government will be discussing with the Sri Lanka Government steps to achieve this objective, including the early convening of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Economic Commission. On its part Government has already taken some steps such as offer of 500 scholarships on a one time basis to Sri Lankan students to pursue their studies in India.

With the de-induction of the IPKF, the direct responsibility for the safety and security of the Tamils in Sri Lanka and for the resolution of the remaining aspects of the Tamil problem rests with the Sri Lanka Government.